

WHS Perfins and Postmarks

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The Editor's comments, in Bulletin No 300, with regard to firms which used both perfins and special postmarks, caused me to check my W H Smith collection to see if I could add anything.

I have the special postmark illustrated as No 7, but only on Victorian postal stationery items with embossed stamps and the Advertising Ring of W H Smith. These were most likely printed paper wrappers and could be expected to be found showing pre-cancelled use. A number of the printed wrappers in my WHS collection also bear stamps used to make up additional postage, so they could possibly be found pre-cancelled, although all mine seem to have standard Newspaper branch cancellations.

The postmark illustrated in the Bulletin article as No 2311 seems to have gone out of use about the end of the 19th century, and the WHS perfins did not come into use until the King Edward VII period. Consequently there was only a very small overlap or none at all which accounts for the lack of perfins with the special W H Smith obliterator. Nevertheless,, this obliterator was replaced by a similar one having "LONDON" instead of the 'S' in its upper half and more radial dashes. This was still used as a pre-cancel by W H Smith and I have an example of one on a SG 221 perfined with WHS (Cat No. W3800.03). It (or an almost identical one) was still in use by this company as a pre-cancel in the late 1930's - see illustration.

In case of non-delivery to be returned to

